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SUBJECT: UNITED KINGDOM: 1999 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 204472

1. THE UNITED KINGDOM IS ONE OF THE UNITED STATES' CLOSEST ALLIES AND PARTNERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IT ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTES TO THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES, INCLUDING THE UN, THE GROUP OF EIGHT (G8), AND THE EUROPEAN UNION IN PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM. IN DECEMBER, THE BLAIR GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED A NEW, PERMANENT, UK-WIDE ANTI-TERRORISM LAW TO REPLACE LAWS WHICH HAD BEEN ADOPTED OVER THE YEARS IN RESPONSE TO TERRORISM RELATING TO NORTHERN IRELAND. THE LAW INCLUDES MEASURES TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TERRORISM.

A) RESPONSE OF UK JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: DURING 1999, HMG INVOKED EXISTING COUNTERTERRORISM LEGISLATION TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST AND/OR PROSECUTED A NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IN FEBRUARY, 79 INDIVIDUALS WERE ARRESTED UNDER THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT AFTER ILLEGALLY OCCUPYING THE GREEK EMBASSY IN LONDON IN PROTEST AT THE ARREST IN ATHENS OF PKK LEADER OCALAN. THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED AND CONVICTED UNDER THE HMG'S PUBLIC ORDER ACT. IN MARCH, THREE ISLAMIC EXTREMISTS, ABU HAMZA, AL SIRRI AND 'FRANK', WERE ARRESTED UNDER THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT. THE POLICE INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED IN NOVEMBER, AND BAIL CONDITIONS WERE DROPPED. IN JULY, TWO EGYPTIANS, ABDEL ALMAGID BARY AND IBRAHIM HUSSEIN ABDEL HADI EIDAROUS, WERE ARRESTED IN RESPONSE TO A U.S. REQUEST FOR THEIR EXTRADITION. THEY REMAIN IN DETENTION PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THIS PROCESS.

IN DECEMBER, THE SCOTTISH JUDGE IN THE TRIAL OF TWO LIBYANS ACCUSED OF THE 1988 LOCKERBIE BOMBING RULED AGAINST DEFENSE MOTIONS THAT CONSPIRACY TO MURDER CHARGES AGAINST THE DEFENDANTS BE DROPPED. AS A RESULT, THE ACCUSED WILL BE TRIED FOR MURDER, BREACH OF THE UK AVIATION SECURITY ACT, AND CONSPIRACY. THE RULING OPENS THE WAY FOR THE BROADEST POSSIBLE AMOUNT OF EVIDENCE TO BE PUT BEFORE THE COURT AS PART OF THE TRIAL, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 2000.

B) UK RECORD OF EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS: THE UK IS COOPERATING FULLY WITH THE U.S. REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF THREE OF THE FIFTEEN INDIVIDUALS INDICTED IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK ON TERRORISM-RELATED CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1998 EMBASSY BOMBINGS IN NAIROBI AND DAR ES SALAAM. KAHLID AL-FAWWAZ, WHO SERVED AS USAMA BIN LADEN'S DE FACTO SPOKESPERSON IN THE UK, IS IN DETENTION PENDING EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS IN RESPONSE TO A U.S. REQUEST. TWO EGYPTIANS, ABEL MOHAMMED ABDUL ALMAGID BARY AND IBRAHIM HUSSEIN ABDEL HADI EIDAROUS, ALSO REMAIN IN DETENTION PENDING EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS TO THE U.S. IN ADDITION TO THESE CASES, HMG IS COOPERATING WITH A FRENCH REQUEST TO EXTRADITE A SUSPECTED GIA MEMBER, ALGERIAN RAMDA.

C) IMPEDIMENTS TO UK PROSECUTION OR EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS: IT IS HMG POLICY TO PROSECUTE AND/OR EXTRADITE SUSPECTED TERRORISTS. HMG PURSUED THIS POLICY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE 1951 UN CONVENTION ON REFUGEES AND THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR). THE 1996 ECHR JUDGEMENT IN THE CASE OF THE SIKH TERRORIST CHAHAL ESTABLISHED CRITERIA TO BE MET IN CASES OF POSSIBLE DEPORTATION.

THE HOME SECRETARY ANNOUNCED IN PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 23, 1999 THAT A TECHNICAL ERROR MADE DURING THE ANNUAL RENEWAL OF THE PROTECTION

OF TERRORISM ACTION MEANT THAT SECTION 16 OF THE ACT HAD NOT BEEN IN FORCE FOR A PERIOD FROM MARCH 1998 TO JUNE 1999. THIS TECHNICAL ERROR RESULTING IN THE INDICTMENT AGAINST SUSPECTED GIA MEMBER RECHACHI BEING QUASHED.

D) UK RESPONSES TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS: HMG CONSISTENTLY CONDEMNS ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM. IT MADE A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS IN 1999 ON SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL INCIDENTS INCLUDING THE KIDNAP AND MURDER OF BRITISH AND OTHER TOURISTS IN UGANDA IN MARCH 1999, AND THE KIDNAP AND MURDER OF BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERS IN CHECHNYA IN 1998.

THE UK ACTIVELY SUPPORTS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL INFORMATION-SHARING AND COOPERATION TO COMBAT TERRORISM. IT PROVIDES BILATERAL COUNTERTERRORISM ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES.

E) MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UK IN 1999, INCLUDING IN INTERNATIONAL FORA: ON DECEMBER 2, THE GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED MAJOR NEW COUNTERTERRORISM LEGISLATION. THE LEGISLATION WILL REFORM AND EXTEND LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED OVER THE YEARS IN RESPONSE TO TERRORIST THREATS AND INCIDENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND. THE GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THE NEW LAW TO BE PASSED BY PARLIAMENT AND GIVEN ROYAL ASSENT BY AUGUST 24, 2000, WHEN ONE OF THE EXISTING LAWS, THE EMERGENCY PROVISIONS ACT (EPA) WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE REPEALED. PROVISIONS IN THE EPA THAT APPLY SPECIFICALLY TO NORTHERN IRELAND WILL BE EXTENDED UNDER THE NEW LAW, BUT ONLY FOR A PERIOD LIMITED TO FIVE YEARS.

THE NEW LAW IS MEANT TO BE PERMANENT, COMPREHENSIVE, AND UK-WIDE. IT DOES DISTINGUISH BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND DEFINES TERRORISM TO INCLUDE "VIOLENCE, INCLUDING ELECTRONIC, MEANT TO INTIMIDATE OR COERCE THE GOVERNMENT OR PUBLIC FOR POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, OR IDEOLOGICAL ENDS." THE LAW WILL EXTEND PROSCRIPTIVE POWERS, CURRENTLY APPLIED TO TERRORIST GROUPS IN NORTHERN IRELAND, TO A BROADER LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ORGANIZATIONS. THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS THE LAW TO STRENGTHEN CURRENT PROVISIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT UK FINANCING OR FINANCIAL MECHANISMS BEING USED TO SUPPORT TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS OR ACTIVITIES ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

THE PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL FORA IN WHICH THE UK HAS BEEN ACTIVE ON TERRORISM ISSUES IN 1999 HAVE BEEN THE UN, THROUGH THE SIXTH COMMITTEE, THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND ALSO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE G8. THE UK PROVIDED STRONG LEADERSHIP ON ANTITERRORISM ISSUES WHILE IT LED THE G8 DURING 1998. IT SUPPORTED THE SEPTEMBER 23 STATEMENT BY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON COMBATING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IT HAS COOPERATED FULLY WITH UNSC RESOLUTIONS MEANT TO COMBAT TERRORISM. THESE INCLUDE RESOLUTION 1267 (ON SANCTIONS AGAINST THE TALIBAN) AND RESOLUTION 1269 (ON TERRORISM).

THE UK HAS RATIFIED TEN OF THE UN CONVENTIONS ON TERRORISM. IT SIGNED THE ELEVENTH, THE CONVENTION ON THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORIST BOMBING, IN JANUARY 1998 AND EXPECTS TO RATIFY THAT CONVENTION IN 2000, BASED ON THE NEW COUNTERTERRORISM LEGISLATION WHICH SHOULD BE PASSED BY MID-YEAR. THE UK EXPECTS TO SIGN THE CONVENTION ON TERRORISM FINANCING AS SOON AS IT IS OPENED IN JANUARY AND TO RATIFY AS SOON AFTERWARDS AS POSSIBLE.

F) POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TERRORISTS, OR TERRORIST GROUPS: HMG DOES NOT SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, TERRORISTS, OR TERRORIST GROUPS. IT IS COMMITTED TO PREVENTING THE UK BEING USED AS A BASE FOR TERRORISM. THE POLICE AND SECURITY SERVICE GIVE PRIORITY TO COUNTERING ANY POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN THE UK BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS, INCLUDING THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNDING OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ABROAD. INFORMATION ABOUT TERRORISM OR SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM IS FULLY INVESTIGATED. WHERE THERE IS CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT UK LAWS MAY HAVE BEEN VIOLATED, INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ARE PROSECUTED.

G) PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRIES ON A TERRORISM ISSUE: THE UK HAS NOT MADE ANY STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF U.S.-DESIGNATED STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ON TERRORISM-RELATED ISSUES. DURING 1999, HMG RESTORED FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THREE COUNTRIES ON THE U.S. LIST OF TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRIES, IRAN, SUDAN AND LIBYA.

H) SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN HMG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM: THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN HMG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM DURING 1999. THE UK REMAINS RESOLUTELY OPPOSED TO TERRORISM IN ALL FORMS, WHATEVER ITS MOTIVATION. HAVING USED ITS CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE G8 AND PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 1998 TO HIGHLIGHT AND PROVIDE LEADERSHIP ON TERRORISM ISSUES, THE UK IS NOW ENCOURAGING OTHER COUNTRIES TO ASSUME A LEADERSHIP ROLE.

I) U.S. COUNTERTERRORISM INITIATIVES PURSUED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HMG: THE UK COOPERATES CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. AT ALL LEVELS ON COUNTERTERRORISM POLICY AND ACTIVITIES, BOTH BILATERALLY AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FORA. WHEN TERRORISM ISSUES COME BEFORE THE UN OR ARE ADDRESSED BY THE G8, THE UK CLOSELY COORDINATES ITS VIEWS WITH THE U.S.

THE UK AND THE U.S. CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO BRING TO JUSTICE THE TWO LIBYANS ACCUSED OF BOMBING PAN AM FLIGHT 102 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND IN 1988. IN AUGUST 1988, THE U.S. AND UK INTRODUCED A JOINT INITIATIVE, WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE ACCUSED TO BE TRIED BEFORE A SCOTTISH COURT SITUATED IN THE NETHERLANDS. AS A RESULT OF THIS JOINT EFFORT, IN APRIL 1999, THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBYA HANDED OVER THE ACCUSED TO THE UN TO AWAIT TRIAL UNDER TERMS OF THE INITIATIVE. THE TRIAL, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON MAY 3, 2000, WILL ALLOW THE ACCUSED TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. HMG AND THE SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH U.S. OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON ALL ASPECTS OF PLANNING, INCLUDING LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS' FAMILIES AND PUBLIC/PRESS RELATIONS.

J) COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. IN THE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION OF AN ACT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS OR INTERESTS: THE UNITED KINGDOM IS ONE OF THE UNITED STATES' CLOSEST ALLIES AND PARTNERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THIS PARTNERSHIP IS REFLECTED IN CLOSE COOPERATION IN MEASURES TO PREVENT TERRORISM AND IN RESPONSES TO TERRORISTS ACTS. THE U.S. AND UK PARTICIPATE IN REGULAR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND JOINT ACTIVITIES.

THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE UK PROVED TO BE INVALUABLE TO THE USG IN ITS INVESTIGATION INTO USAMA BIN LADEN AND HIS AL-QAEDA ORGANIZATION. THE U.S. AND UK CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT KHALID AL-FAWWAZ, ABDEL MOHAMMED ABDUL ALMAGID BARY, AND IBRAHIM EIDAROUS, ALL OF WHOM HAVE INDICTED IN THE U.S. ON TERRORISM-RELATED CHARGES, ARE SUCCESSFULLY EXTRADITED.

THE UK CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE U.S. IN ITS EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION OF ABDELBASET ALI MOHMED AL MEGRAHI AND AL AMIN KHALIFA FHIMAH, WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED IN THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 102 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND IN 1998.

THE UK CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF U.S. AND BRITISH CITIZENS IN YEMEN IN DECEMBER 1998.

K) COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. IN PREVENTING ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM: THE U.S. AND THE UK LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES MAINTAIN A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN ORDER TO PREVENT ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS AND/OR INTERESTS IN THE UK. THIS COOPERATION EXTENDS TO UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF INFORMATION-SHARING. THE UK HAS ASSISTED THE U.S. IN ITS INVESTIGATION INTO TERRORIST ACTS IN SCOTLAND, KENYA, TANZANIA, AND YEMEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE U.S. AND UK IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PREVENT FUTURE ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS AND/OR INTERESTS.

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